

were found to have hired large numbers of illegal aliens, either knowingly or unintentionally, and subsequently they were subject to penalties. As technology has progressed to allow for the cheap and quick production of legitimate-looking fraudulent documents, the inability of employers to distinguish between valid documents and fraudulent documents has significantly increased. It became clear that businesses dedicated to complying with the IRCA needed new tools to assist with the endeavor.

When the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRIRA) of 1996 was enacted, it authorized the creation of three employment verification tools, including the Basic Pilot Program. Initially, employers in California, Florida, Texas, Illinois, Florida, New York, and Iowa could voluntarily use the Basic Pilot Program to compare the information received from potential employees with Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) databases to determine if potential employees could be employed legally in the U.S.

Mr. Speaker, throughout the 1990's, many legal immigrants and illegal aliens moved to Nebraska seeking jobs in the meatpacking industry. Subsequently, this Member began to receive contacts from businesses in his district concerned about their capacity to comply with the IRCA. Therefore, on November 30, 1999, this Member joined his House and Senate colleagues in the Nebraska Congressional Delegation in a letter to then-INS Commissioner Doris Meissner requesting the extension of the Basic Pilot Program to Nebraska. This Member continues to firmly believe that providing Nebraska businesses with the tools to hire a legal workforce is an important component in maintaining a stable economy in the State and in meeting needs to effectively enforce immigration laws in this country's interior. On March 19, 1999, the U.S. Department of Justice granted Nebraska businesses access to the Basic Pilot Program. Currently, about eight Nebraska businesses actively utilize the program.

Mr. Speaker, for Congress to allow the Basic Pilot Program to lapse following the horrific and unspeakable terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, would demonstrate true negligence. More than ever, the U.S. must fully enforce its immigration laws to protect its citizens from future attacks. In its capacity to identify document fraud and illegal aliens, the Basic Pilot Program can indeed play a role in the fight against terrorism.

In conclusion, this Member encourages his colleagues to vote for H.R. 3030.

H.R. 3005, TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY

SPEECH OF

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2001

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to convey my opposition to H.R. 3005, the Trade Promotion Authority Act of 2001. Had I been present, I would have voted "no".

American workers have felt the repercussions of fast track authority since the passage

of NAFTA. Millions of American jobs have been lost since then. Over 20,000 workers in New York State have lost their jobs since 1994. My district in Buffalo, New York has been hit particularly hard. The passage of TPA will only exacerbate the dire situation the working people of Western New York are facing. Hard working Americans need trade policy that will protect U.S. jobs and stimulate the economy. This bill will not do that.

I voted against Fast Track in 1997 and 1998. I have been clear in my opposition to TPA in 2001. Unfortunately, I did not know this bill would be brought to the floor during my absence. Although I did not have the opportunity to vote, I remain steadfastly opposed to this measure and assure you that had I been able-bodied at the time, my vote on H.R. 3005 would have been "no".

TRIBUTE TO ST. CAMILLUS ACADEMY

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2001

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize, and offer my congratulations to, St. Camillus Academy of Corbin, Kentucky. This fall, the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports announced the state champions of the President's Challenge program for the 2000-2001 school year. And, for the second consecutive year, St. Camillus Academy has earned the distinguished State Champion Award for category one schools in Kentucky. I was exceedingly glad to learn of this award and want to take this time to recognize the students of St. Camillus for their outstanding achievement.

The President's Challenge is a physical fitness program designed to test the fitness of public school children in several activities, including sit-ups, pull-ups, and a long-distance running. Students that score at the 85th percentile or above in all categories of the Challenge earn the Presidential Physical Fitness Award. Schools statewide are recognized by the number of students that have achieved this distinction, and St. Camillus won over all other category one schools in Kentucky. Fifty percent of its students scored at or about the 85th percentile.

Mr. Speaker, this is no small accomplishment. It takes a lot of hard work and effort on the part of children today to reach a certain level of fitness and the importance of fitness as a health benefit cannot be over-emphasized. In announcing state champions, the president's council noted that there is a "growing epidemic of physical inactivity among our nation's youth." Many of our children are suffering from obesity and other ailments as a result of a lack of exercise. We must recognize that physical fitness, in addition to good grades and scholastic achievement, is an equally important component of a good education.

Mr. Speaker, it is fortunate that we, as a nation, can look to many role models for inspiration and encouragement. Of course, we can find several in athletes, professional and ama-

teur, who have striven to achieve and overcome what seem at the time impossible odds. I believe we can include the students of St. Camillus in that category as well. As category one state champion for the State of Kentucky, St. Camillus has proven itself a model school and is deserving of our praise and recognition. Again, I wish to salute the students of St. Camillus for this wonderful achievement. Thank you.

KEEPING THE SOCIAL SECURITY PROMISE INITIATIVE

SPEECH OF

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2001

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 282, which reiterates Congress' commitment to our seniors to keep the promise of Social Security.

For years now, Congress and the public have known that Social Security would soon be facing serious financial challenges due to shifting demographics. With the aging of the baby boom generation, the number of retiring Americans receiving benefits is beginning to overwhelm the number of working Americans paying into the Social Security system. In addition, thanks to important medical advances and healthy behavioral changes, Americans are living longer. The result of these factors is that beginning in 2016, Social Security payments will exceed worker contributions into the trust funds.

This is a scary prospect for the millions of Americans who receive Social Security benefits. Many of those individuals depend upon their monthly Social Security checks to survive. As we fight our global war on terrorism, we must not lose sight of the fact that terror can come in many forms. It is every bit as frightening to an elderly man or woman that the Social Security check might be late—and far more real. Too many of these people are living from one check to the next and balancing food against medicine. As their Representatives in Congress, we should at least provide them with the security of the promise of Social Security.

It is also a scary prospect, Mr. Speaker, for the millions of Americans who are approaching retirement. They have been paying into the Social Security trust funds because they have to, not because they believe in Social Security. In fact, numerous studies have shown that more young Americans believe in UFOs than in their future Social Security checks.

It is clear that Social Security in its current form—the form it has had since the Great Depression—is unsustainable. If we are to keep the promise that so many seniors and working Americans have relied upon for years, we must reform this program. There are many possibilities for reform, including adding personal investment options. The President appointed a commission of experts from business, think tanks, and government to explore these alternatives and to make recommendations to Congress for change. They are expected to vote on their final report today, and